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Floor Statement

Rep. Anh “Joseph” Cao

H Res 1079 Saints Resolution Speech
“The Saints Came Marching In”
Wednesday, March 03, 2010

Mr./Madam Speaker—

I rise today in support of House Res 1079, congratulating the National Football League Champion New Orleans Saints for winning Super Bowl XLIV and bringing New Orleans its first Lombardi Trophy in franchise history.

As a New Orleanian and the Representative to Congress for Orleans and Jefferson Parishes, I am honored to congratulate the Saints on their historic season.

I want to thank the twenty-two original cosponsors and seventy-five total cosponsors of H. Res 1079 for joining me to congratulate and support the Saints.

I’d also like to thank my colleagues in the entire Louisiana delegation for their dedication to the recovery of South Louisiana. We have collaborated in Congress on efforts to rebuild our region and I hope to continue working with them in the future.

The Saints’ motto all season has been ‘Finish Strong’, and they did that very thing with a 31-17 victory over the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLIV. The Saints Super Bowl victory not only shows the dedication and hard work of the organization, coaches, and players, but also represents a beacon of hope for the city of New Orleans and a catalyst for recovery throughout Louisiana.

H. Res 1079 emphasizes the positive influence that the Saints have had on people in New Orleans and the gulf coast region.

I introduced H. Res 1079 to congratulate the Saints because for the past 5 years, the Saints have symbolized the city of New Orleans through their pride, resiliency, traditions, suffering, faith, loyalty, and hope.

This Resolution congratulates Saints owners Tom Benson and Rita Benson LeBlanc for their investment in the future of the Saints and their dedication and commitment to a strong and united New Orleans.

H. Res 1079 also congratulates Doug Thornton, Senior Vice President of Stadiums and Arenas, for helping the Saints return to New Orleans by playing an integral role in rebuilding the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina.

This Resolution brings attention to the individuals who made this season a success. I want to specifically thank head coach Sean Payton for his love and commitment to the people and the city of New Orleans and to congratulate him in being the lone head coach in Saints history to open a season with 13 straight wins and holding the all-time winning percentage record for a Saints head coach.

H. Res 1079 highlights statistics from the Saints regular season and Super Bowl XLIV such as:

Drew Brees completing 70.6% of his passes during the regular season, which is an NFL record;

Darren Sharper setting an NFL record for most interception return yardage in a regular season with 376 yards;

The Saints leading the league in 2009 with 31.9 points per game and 403.8 yards per game;

the 2009 Saints surpassing team records in: most points in a season, most touchdowns in a season, longest winning streak, most interception return yards, and most interceptions returned for a touchdown in a game;

Other statistics from Super Bowl XLIV were:

Drew Brees setting a Super Bowl record with 32 pass completions;

Marques Colston leading the Saints in receiving with 83 yards;

The team rushing for a total of 51 yards on 18 carries;

And Garrett Hartley setting a Super Bowl record with three field goals of over 40 yards;

For the last several months, I have been reading statements on the House floor about the importance of the Saints and their positive impact on New Orleans and I want to continue that tradition with a few statements from my district.

Ms. Loretta Brehm writes,

“The whole Saints organization exemplifies leadership, professionalism, and a "never give up attitude."

“They have brought together all parts of our community regardless of race, religion, or economic status. “

“Much has been given to our community by their generous spirit and positive actions. If we as a community can model from their success, there is no limit to what we can accomplish!”

Ms. Melissa Smith writes,

“All those involved with the Saints organization took a chance on the city of New Orleans. Doug Thorton performed a miracle and ensured that the team had a facility to play in. The Bensons returned the team to New Orleans.”

“And, the team as a whole provided an avenue for all of us to come home and gave us the faith we need to overcome certain odds.”

[New Orleanians] remark about the resurgence of the team and how they spur the resurgence of the city.

“The New Orleans Saints gave this city hope during a time when we didn't have this hope in ourselves. They provided people with a [plan that] depends on discipline, dedication, and determination.”

“We may be tired and poor right now. But, we are contenders. We are New Orleans. **We are America.**”